



# Identifying The Threat Within: How to Identify Extremism in Your Community

Anne Speckhard PhD, Molly Ellenberg, TM Garret  
Chief Jim Bueermann (ret.) & Lisa Broderick



Police2Peace



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Study of Violent Extremism

# Session 1: Introduction to Domestic Extremism

# Who are they?

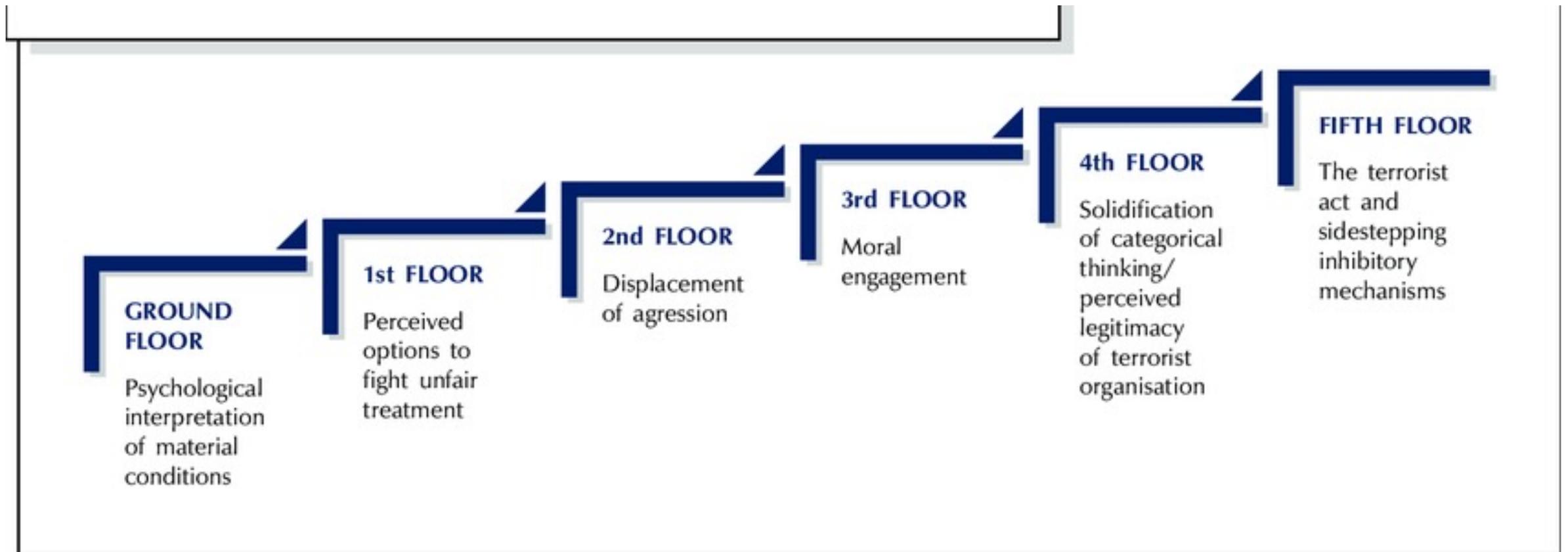
- Communities and groups
- Lone wolves - which is really a misnomer
- Conspiracy theorists - Great Replacement, White Genocide, Q-Anon, etc.
- Three strains of white supremacist ideologies (to be discussed in-depth next time):
  - Christian Identity (e.g., Ku Klux Klan)
  - Odinism (e.g., Wotansvolk)
  - Neo-Nazism (e.g., National Socialist Movement)

# Why do they join?

- The Lethal Cocktail of Terrorism
  - The group
  - An ideology
  - Social support
  - Individual needs and vulnerabilities
    - Belonging
    - Significance
    - Purpose
    - A noble cause



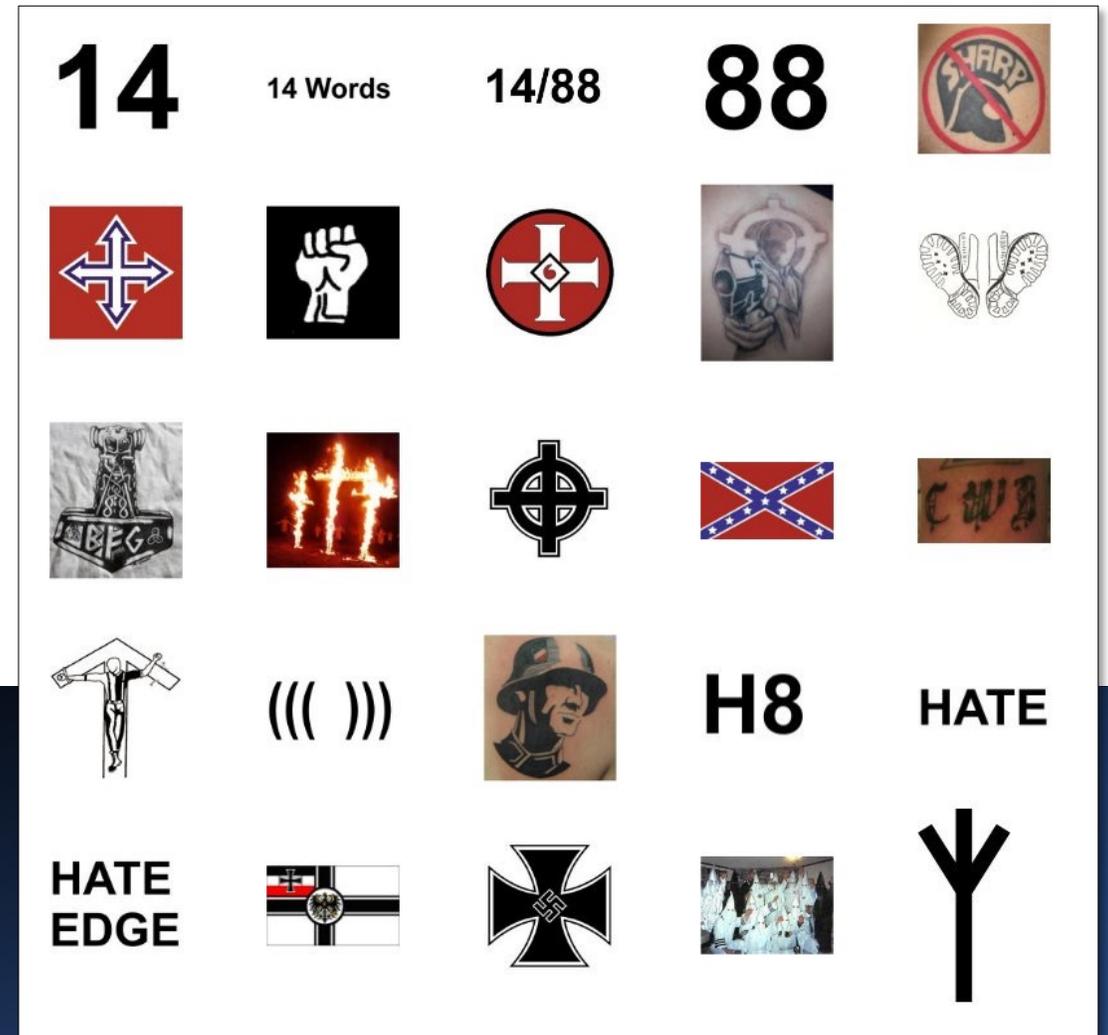
# What is the trajectory into violence?



# What are the red flags of radicalization to violent extremism?

Symbols on clothing, laptops, phones, social media, tattoos, etc.

See: [ADL Hate Symbols Database](#)



# What are the red flags of radicalization?

- Behavioral signs:
  - Activity on far-right forums:
    - 4chan/8chan/8kun
    - Stormfront
    - Incel forums
  - “Helping” behavior at protests
  - Obsession with and imitation of law enforcement
  - Face to face and online expressions of “Non-violent” proclamations of hateful ideologies
  - Glorification of mass shooters

# Early Warning Signals in the System

- In nearly every terrorist and active shooter event a family or friend knew ahead something was wrong.
  - Between 2000 and 2013, **51%** of active shooters leaked an intent to violence
  - Between 2000 and 2013, **55%** of active shooters with a specific target made threats or had a prior confrontation with that target
  - Between 2000 and 2013, **88%** of active shooters under age 18 leaked an intent to violence
  - Between 2000 and 2013, **54%** of people who noticed concerning behaviors by the shooter prior to the attack **did nothing**.
- What are you doing to create trust so family members and friends would turn to you to let you know something is wrong?
- So many active shooter cases go back to bullied kids, do you know who is being bullied in your community and what are you doing to help those kids?
  - In 15 school shooting case studies between 1995 and 2001, all but two experienced **acute or chronic rejection (ostracism, bullying, romantic rejection)**
    - This is especially important for incel-linked shooters
- When sacred values are violated, especially if lives are being lost, many will move to violence. Do you know what sacred values may be violated in your community and what the outlets to anger are?
  - In communities which value **traditional masculinity and honor**, romantic rejection or other feelings of emasculation can feel like a violation of sacred values
  - Justice
    - Gun rights
    - Dignity



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# Case Example: Benji McDowell





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# Case Example: Sean Gillespie





# Case Example: Ryan Lo'Ree



# Are they Crazy? What are the Legal Remedies?

- Incitement to violence and hate speech is illegal, but it's not a crime to express a hateful or violent wish. We can't have thought police.
- Involuntary commitment in most states requires mental illness as a basis for threat of grave harm to self, harm to others, or gravely disabled for self-care.
- Mental illness is usually in the case of legal holds involving schizophrenia, bipolar, severe depression. Commitment puts them on a federal gun registry.
- Commitment is not for angry young men who have been bullied, rejected by women, feel entitled, want revenge and who are making violent statements.



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# Where can you intervene?



# Framework for a Pre-Incident Warning System

## Mental Health

- Mental health includes vulnerabilities and motivations for resonating to violent groups and ideologies – we will cover this more in session two.
- Framework: Work with mental health professionals and others in the community to identify professional interventions which can be taken, create a caring network of school counselors, mentors, psychologists, psychiatrists, etc. that are at your fingertips. Create a caring space that family members and friends of a vulnerable person about to act know they can call you and you will help not simply act punitively.
- Goal: Operationalize a program for implementing the professional mental health interventions. Just like ghostbusters - Ask yourself this far in advance – Who ya gonna call?

## Firearms

- What is the state and availability of firearms in the community?
- Framework: Operationalize a program for addressing the prevalence of guns
  - a program for storing community members' guns
  - Other ideas include a gunlock give away
- Goal: Know the state and availability of firearms in your community

# Framework for a Pre-Incident Warning System

## Opportunity

- Framework: Recognize the warning signs, whether on the internet or in the community
  - Do you see the following things? (*which we covered*)
    - Language
    - Phrases
    - Symbols
- Goal: Operationalize programs to look and listen for warning signs
  - Train dispatchers to listen for warning signs
  - Train workforce to look for warning signs
  - Train faith leaders to look for warning signs
  - Train educators to look for warning signs
  - Develop a positive but strong response.

# Contact us!

We are here to help. Contact us anytime and we'll do our best to help you.

- Our counter narrative videos are [here](#)
- Our ICSVE website is [here](#)
  - [Escape Hate](#)
  - [The Real Jihad](#)
- Anne Speckhard - [Anne.Speckhard@ICSVE.org](mailto:Anne.Speckhard@ICSVE.org)
- Molly Ellenberg - [MollyEllenberg@ICSVE.org](mailto:MollyEllenberg@ICSVE.org)
- TM Garret - [TMGarret@ICSVE.org](mailto:TMGarret@ICSVE.org)
- Jim Bueermann [jbueermann@futurepolicing.org](mailto:jbueermann@futurepolicing.org)



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